In Stage-I, i.e. from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004, the allocation of urea under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) will be restricted up to 75% and 50% of installed capacity (as reassessed) of each unit in Kharif 2003 and Rabi 2003-04, respectively. The supply of urea to the farmers will be at Maximum Retail Price (MRP) anywhere in the country both in the case of urea under ECA allocation and decontrolled urea. During Stage-II, urea distribution will be totally decontrolled after having evaluated the Stage-I.

Life saving drugs

354. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of drugs and medicines, particularly life saving drugs have attained soaring height; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make any distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. In accordance with the provisions of the said Order, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes prices of the drugs listed in its first schedule and formulations based thereon. Prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc.

An analysis of data (December, 1998—December, 2001) of ORG-MARG, which publishes monthly reports of "Retail Store Audit-Market for Pharmaceutical Products in India" revealed the following position with respect to prices of medicines having a minimum annual sale value of Rs. 1.00 crore:

(i) Price of 2557 such medicines which appeared during all three years of 1999 to 2001 were analysed.

(ii) The prices of 54%, 51% and 49% of the above medicines have gone up during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001, respectively.

(iii) The prices of 12%, 8% and 9% of the above medicines have declined during the same period respectively.

(iv) The prices of 34%, 41% and 42% of the above medicines have remained same during the same period respectively.

Profit margin for medicine manufacturers

355. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed profit margin for the manufacturers of medicines and drugs so that they are available at a reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The price fixation of the bulk drugs listed in the First Schedule to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and the formulations based thereon is done in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. Fixation of maximum sale price of a scheduled bulk drug is done in accordance with the provisions of para 3 of the DPCO, 1995 which prescribes the rate of return for this purpose. Paras 7, 9 and 10 containing the provisions for pricing of scheduled formulations prescribe Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) of return/margin.

Illegal keeping of wildlife

356. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of endangered, wild and prohibited animals are being kept illegally as pets in farm houses and residential houses;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered in the country during the last five years; and